



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Down 0.1 Percentage Point in November to 2.8 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 6,600 jobs
between October 2018 and November 2018—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point in November to 2.8 percent and was down 0.8 percentage point from a year ago. November's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.8 percent is the lowest rate since the April 2001 rate of 2.8 percent. The labor force, which expanded for the second consecutive month, added 1,534 for a total of 4,354,945. Household employment increased by 2,323, which was the eleventh consecutive monthly increase, and at 4,230,978, set a new record high. The number of unemployed continued to drop, declining by 789 to 123,967. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged at 3.7 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 6,600 jobs in November to 4,031,700, which was the eleventh consecutive monthly increase and a new record high. October's initially reported gain of 2,700 jobs was revised downward by 2,600 jobs to an over-the-month gain of 100 jobs. The downward revisions were spread across seven major industry divisions. In November, private sector employment increased by 4,000 jobs to 3,331,500, while public sector payrolls increased by 2,600 jobs to 700,200.

From October 2018 to November 2018, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in six major industry divisions, decreased in three, and remained unchanged in mining at 8,400 and in construction at 203,600. The largest job gain during November occurred in the **total government** sector, which increased by 2,600 jobs to 700,200. For total government, the gains occurred in local (+2,300 jobs) and federal (+300 jobs) government employment, while state government employment remained unchanged. The second

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largest over-the-month gain occurred in **private education and health services**, with a gain of 2,300 jobs to 548,300. In November, health care and social assistance increased by 1,500 jobs, while private education increased by 800 jobs. **Manufacturing** experienced the third largest over-the month increase. November's increase in manufacturing of 1,300 jobs to 244,600 was the sixth consecutive monthly increase. Other employment gains were: 800 jobs each in **professional and business services** and **leisure and hospitality** to 753,900 and 416,000, respectively; and 200 jobs in **finance** to 211,100. The largest job loss during November occurred in **information**, which decreased by 800 jobs to 65,200. Other employment losses were 500 jobs in **trade and transportation** to 673,300 and 100 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 207,100.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			October 2018 to November 2018		November 2017 to November 2018	
	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	4,031,700	4,025,100	3,956,600	+6,600	+0.2%	+75,100	+1.9%
Total Private Sector	3,331,500	3,327,500	3,240,300	+4,000	+0.1%	+91,200	+2.8%
Goods-Producing	456,600	455,300	438,600	+1,300	+0.3%	+18,000	+4.1%
Mining	8,400	8,400	8,200	+0	+0.0%	+200	+2.4%
Construction	203,600	203,600	196,100	+0	+0.0%	+7,500	+3.8%
Manufacturing	244,600	243,300	234,300	+1,300	+0.5%	+10,300	+4.4%
Service-Providing	3,575,100	3,569,800	3,518,000	+5,300	+0.1%	+57,100	+1.6%
Private Service-Providing	2,874,900	2,872,200	2,801,700	+2,700	+0.1%	+73,200	+2.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	673,300	673,800	660,100	-500	-0.1%	+13,200	+2.0%
Information	65,200	66,000	66,600	-800	-1.2%	-1,400	-2.1%
Finance	211,100	210,900	206,100	+200	+0.1%	+5,000	+2.4%
Professional and Business Services	753,900	753,100	732,800	+800	+0.1%	+21,100	+2.9%
Education and Health Services	548,300	546,000	532,000	+2,300	+0.4%	+16,300	+3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	416,000	415,200	400,100	+800	+0.2%	+15,900	+4.0%
Miscellaneous Services	207,100	207,200	204,000	-100	-0.0%	+3,100	+1.5%
Government	700,200	697,600	716,300	+2,600	+0.4%	-16,100	-2.2%
Federal Government	176,700	176,400	177,900	+300	+0.2%	-1,200	-0.7%
State Government	159,500	159,500	159,200	+0	+0.0%	+300	+0.2%
Local Government	364,000	361,700	379,200	+2,300	+0.6%	-15,200	-4.0%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From November 2017 to November 2018, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 75,100 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 56 consecutive months and has continued to strengthen over the last several months. For September and October, Virginia's over-the-year growth was the same as the national rate, and in November, Virginia's over-the-year growth rate of 1.9 percent exceeded the national rate of 1.7 percent. In

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previous months, Virginia's over-the-year growth had not been as strong as the national rate. In November, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 91,200 jobs, while employment in the public sector declined by 16,100 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, nine of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other two experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 21,100 jobs (+2.9 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 16,300 jobs (+3.1 percent). **Leisure and hospitality** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 15,900 jobs (+4.0 percent). Other gains were in **trade and transportation**, up 13,200 jobs (+2.0 percent); **manufacturing**, up 10,300 jobs (+4.4 percent); **construction**, up 7,500 jobs (+3.8 percent); **finance**, up 5,000 jobs (+2.4 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 3,100 jobs (+1.5 percent); and **mining**, up 200 jobs (+2.4 percent). Compared to a-year-ago November, **total government** fell by 16,100 jobs (-2.2 percent), with the losses in local (-15,200 jobs) and federal (-1,200 jobs) government employment outweighing the gain in state government employment (+300 jobs). In addition, employment in **information** was down 1,400 jobs (-2.1 percent).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			October 2018 to November 2018		November 2017 to November 2018	
	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	4,031,700	4,025,100	3,956,600	+6,600	+0.2%	+75,100	+1.9%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	77,800	77,500	75,900	+300	+0.4%	+1,900	+2.5%
Charlottesville MSA	121,300	121,600	117,800	-300	-0.2%	+3,500	+3.0%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,000	68,200	67,400	-200	-0.3%	+600	+0.9%
Lynchburg MSA	106,200	106,000	104,200	+200	+0.2%	+2,000	+1.9%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,487,300	1,483,400	1,471,100	+3,900	+0.3%	+16,200	+1.1%
Richmond MSA	682,100	682,600	670,800	-500	-0.1%	+11,300	+1.7%
Roanoke MSA	163,400	163,300	159,600	+100	+0.1%	+3,800	+2.4%
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	51,200	51,200	50,000	+0	+0.0%	+1,200	+2.4%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	791,000	789,700	778,700	+1,300	+0.2%	+12,300	+1.6%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	65,800	66,000	64,100	-200	-0.3%	+1,700	+2.7%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In November, five metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains; four experienced losses; and employment in the Staunton-Waynesboro metropolitan area remained unchanged. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Northern Virginia, with a gain of 3,900 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced gains were: Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+1,300 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-

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Radford (+300 jobs); Lynchburg (+200 jobs); and Roanoke (+100 jobs). The largest absolute job loss occurred in the Richmond metropolitan area, with a loss of 500 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced losses were Charlottesville (-300 jobs); and Harrisonburg and Winchester (-200 jobs each).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 16,200 jobs (+1.1 percent). Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was ranked second, with a gain of 12,300 jobs (+1.6 percent), and Richmond was ranked third, with a gain of 11,300 jobs (+1.7 percent). The other over-the-year job gains occurred in: Roanoke (+3,800 jobs); Charlottesville (+3,500 jobs); Lynchburg (+2,000 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+1,900 jobs); Winchester (+1,700 jobs); Staunton-Waynesboro (+1,200 jobs); and Harrisonburg (+600 jobs).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point in November to 2.7 percent and was down 0.7 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 29,200, household employment increased by 74,369, and as a result, the labor force rose by 45,169. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was unchanged in November at 3.5 percent.

Compared to last month, the November **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 174,100 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.3 hour to 41.4 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.18 to \$19.40, and average weekly earnings increased by \$13.22 to \$803.16. Compared to last November, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.4 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.18, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$0.24.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of November 11-17, 2018.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the November local area unemployment rates on Thursday, January 3, 2019. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

The December statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, January 18, 2019.

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